

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 068505

R 031729Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1535

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05419

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UG, XA, OAU

SUBJECT: SUBSTANTIVE REPORTING FROM UGANDA: MEETING OF
OAU

REF: BONN 4828

THE FRG FONOFF HAS GIVEN US A COPY OF THE FOLLOWING
REPORT FROM ITS EMBASSY IN KAMPALA, DATED APRIL 2.

BEGIN TEXT:

THE 22ND MEETING OF OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS, WHICH HAD
BEEN POSTPONED IN FEBRUARY OWING TO THE SITUATION IN
ADDIS ABABA, OPENED YESTERDAY IN KAMPALA. FOLLOWING THE
EVENTS OF MARCH 23-24, IT APPEARED DOUBTFUL AT THE
BEGINNING OF LAST WEEK THAT THE MEETING COULD TAKE
PLACE AS PLANNED IN KAMPALA. THE DECISION TO HOLD IT
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WAS PROBABLY MADE ON MARCH 27 WHEN THE FOREIGN MINISTER

OF BURUNDI, WHOSE TURN IT WAS TO ACT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE, WAS HERE TO MAKE PREPARATIONS.

AMIN CAN REGARD THE MEETING IN KAMPALA AS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE RENEWED STRENGTHENING OF HIS POSITION. THIS FACT FOUND EXPRESSION IN THE STATEMENTS OF THE OPENING SPEAKERS FROM CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE), LIBYA, ZAMBIA, AND BURUNDI, ALL OF WHICH INDICATED SURPRISE AT THE PEACEFULNESS, ORDERLINESS, AND HOSPITALITY SHOWN BY UGANDA.

AMIN AVOIDED SHARP ATTACKS IN HIS IMPROVISED OPENING SPEECH. HE USED THE OCCASION TO RETURN TO THE EVENTS OF MARCH 23RD AND ONCE AGAIN PRESENTED HIS VERSION OF THESE EVENTS, EMBELLISHED WITH VARIOUS DETAILS. ACCORDING TO THIS VERSION, ARUBE PRECIPITATED THE CONFUSION THROUGH A FALSE ALARM AND THEN SHOT HIMSELF.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE FORMER ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF, MALERA (WHO FOLLOWED ARUBE), WAS SENT ON INDEFINITE LEAVE ON MARCH 29. THIS ADDS PLAUSIBILITY TO THE ASSUMPTION THAT A PERSONAL CONFLICT BETWEEN MALERA AND ARUBE MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EVENTS OF MARCH 23-24.

THE AFRICAN DELEGATES, ACCUSTOMED TO PUTSCHES, ACCEPTED RELATIVELY CALMLY THE NEWS OF THE DISPUTES IN THE ARMY AS WELL AS THE GENERAL'S ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN THEM.

FURTHER REPORT ON THE MEETING WILL FOLLOW. END TEXT.
HILLENBRAND

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